



**Start of Henrietta Silberstein
Collection
AR 11477**

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AR 11477

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Henrietta Silberman Collection

circa 1940-2004

Archives

A German-Jewish Woman in the British Air Force

Henrietta (Goldenberg) Silberstein was born on Nov. 9, 1907, the oldest daughter of Bertha Goldenberg and husband, who was of Polish descent. Bertha had two sons, Emil and Max and one other daughter, Gerda. The family lived in Cologne and Henny worked, as a young woman, at L. Tietz and Co.

At the beginning of the Nazi era, she lost her job as a salesperson at L. Tietz. For a while she worked with very young children. Her younger sister got married and her two brothers left Germany for Belgium. In 1938 her father was shot, her mother escaped to relatives and, later, hid in Belgium during the war. Henny was alone in the apartment in Cologne when an officer told her to "disappear at once!" Her mother's brother lived in Duesseldorf and bought her a ticket for England.

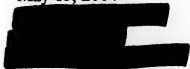
Henrietta went to a Jewish Committee in London that got her work as a domestic. Later, she met young women who told her about the army and air force. Since she had a Polish passport (because of her father), the British military accepted her. She joined the air force but did not fly, working as ground personnel (Bodenpersonal). Later, she could send her mother (in Belgium) provisions from England.

After the war, Henny discovered that her two brothers had been murdered by the Nazis (they had been arrested while working in the fields in Belgium for farmers and were later killed). She and her mother were reunited and joined her sister Gerda and Gerda's husband in Kansas City. (They had survived in Shanghai.)

She met her husband, Gus Silberstein (born in Plauen), in Kansas City. His family, too, had survived in Shanghai and knew Henny's sister.

She was married to Gus for 31 years and worked for 25 years in an elegant dress shop, the "Suburban," in Millburn, New Jersey. She died at the age of 97 in South Orange, New Jersey (Feb. 26, 2004).

Written by her friend and neighbor, Grete Weinberg
May 15, 2004





Henriette (Goldberg) N 386

Silberstein

1907-2004



Henrietta (Goldberg) Silberstein

1907 - 2004

(copy of original)



**End of Henrietta Silberstein
Collection**
